

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings of claims:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 34 3, wherein further comprising accepting one of the plurality of navigation connectors for the different application sources at the navigation service by comprises receiving a registration request from a the one of the navigation connectors connector for a given application, receipt of the registration request resulting in the navigation service having an identifier for the one of the navigation connectors given connector, and said receiving the navigation information by comprises receiving the navigation nodes; from the one of the navigation connectors given connector, as defined by the navigation object model, the received navigation nodes including the connector identifier.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4, further comprising selecting a the one of the plurality of navigation connectors connector to contact based on one of the a connector identifiers identifier from a navigation node in the united navigation hierarchy.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 34 2, further comprising wherein providing a the unified navigation area comprises by displaying a navigation window in a portal presentation, the navigation window including navigation links to resources of the different application sources, the navigation links being organized according to the united navigation hierarchy.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 34 2, wherein the united navigation hierarchy comprises navigation nodes defined by the navigation object model, the method further comprising:

receiving a navigation action; and

changing at least one of the navigation nodes in accordance with the received navigation action.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 34 2, wherein uniting the navigation hierarchies further comprises merging at least two navigation objects from the different application sources based on a merge identifier.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the united navigation hierarchy comprises a graph of linking relationships among navigation objects.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 34 2, wherein uniting the navigation hierarchies further comprises dynamically loading the united navigation hierarchy.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) The portal system of claim 35 12, wherein the navigation connectors include connector identifiers that are included in the navigation nodes generated by the navigation connectors to provide the navigation information.

14. (Currently amended) The portal system of claim 35 12, wherein the navigation connectors generate the navigation nodes according to the navigation object model to provide the navigation information, the navigation nodes including at least one merge identifier that indicates similar content in two navigation nodes from different applications application sources and that results in a merger of the two navigation nodes.

15. (Currently amended) The portal system of claim 35 12, wherein the navigation object model defines navigation nodes used to represent the navigation information from the different application sources, the navigation nodes include including a linking relationship to other nodes that are not in a parent child relationship in the homogeneous view of the navigation information.

16. (Currently amended) The portal system of claim 35 12, wherein the navigation service module is configured to read data from the different application sources using the navigation connectors but not to write data to the different application sources using the navigation connectors.

17. (Currently Amended) The portal system of claim 35 12, wherein the navigation service module dynamically loads a united navigation hierarchy when providing the homogeneous view of the navigation information.

18. (Original) The portal system of claim 17, wherein a role editor allows setting a node as a new root of the united navigation hierarchy for display for users that belong to a role.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended) The portal system of claim 35 20, wherein the navigation service module means for uniting the navigation hierarchies further comprises INavigationService means for abstracting navigation operations, the connector interface comprises INavigationConnector means for plugging an application into the INavigationService means, and the navigation data interface comprises INavigationNode means for accessing navigation information from the different application sources.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently amended) The article of claim 36 24, wherein further comprising accepting one of the plurality of navigation connectors for the different application sources at the navigation service by comprises receiving a registration request from a the one of the navigation connectors connector for a given application, receipt of the registration request resulting in the navigation service having an identifier for the one of the navigation connectors given connector,

and said receiving the navigation information ~~by comprises receiving the~~ navigation nodes, from the ~~one of the navigation connectors given connector~~, as defined by the navigation object model, the received navigation nodes including the connector identifier.

26. (Currently amended) The article of claim 25, wherein the operations further comprise selecting ~~a the one of the plurality of navigation connectors connector~~ to contact based on ~~one of the a connector identifiers identifier from a navigation node in the united navigation hierarchy.~~

27. (Currently amended) The article of claim ~~36 23~~, further comprising wherein providing ~~a the~~ unified navigation area ~~comprises by~~ displaying a navigation window in a portal presentation, the navigation window including navigation links to resources of the different application sources, the navigation links being organized according to the united navigation hierarchy.

28. (Currently amended) The article of claim ~~36 23~~, wherein ~~the united navigation hierarchy comprises navigation nodes defined by the navigation object model~~, the operations further comprise comprising:

receiving a navigation action; and

changing at least one of the navigation nodes in accordance with the received navigation action.

29. (Currently amended) The article of claim ~~36 23~~, wherein uniting the navigation hierarchies further comprises merging at least two navigation objects from the different application sources based on a merge identifier.

30. (Original) The article of claim 29, wherein the united navigation hierarchy comprises a graph of linking relationships among navigation objects.

31. (Currently amended) The article of claim ~~36 23~~, wherein uniting the navigation hierarchies further comprises dynamically loading the united navigation hierarchy.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Canceled)

34. (New) A portal system comprising:

an integration layer comprising a navigation service module that defines a connector interface;

a data layer comprising a plurality of application sources and an equal number of navigation connectors to the navigation service, each one of the plurality of application sources providing one of the navigation connectors by implementing the defined connector interface and by generating one or more navigation nodes that represent data objects in the each one of the plurality of application sources; and

a presentation layer comprising one or more navigation applications that obtain navigation information from the navigation service, the navigation service uniting the navigation nodes provided by the plurality of navigation connectors to provide a homogeneous view of navigation information from the plurality of application sources by uniting navigation hierarchies from each of the plurality of application sources into a united application hierarchy.

35. (New) A method comprising:

operating one or more navigation applications in a presentation layer of a navigation model architecture, a navigation service in an integration layer of the navigation model architecture, and a plurality of application sources in a data layer of the navigation model architecture;

implementing a connector interface defined by the navigation service on each of the plurality of application sources to provide one navigation connector to the navigation service for each of the plurality of application sources, each navigation connector providing one or more navigation nodes that represent data objects in the one of the plurality of application sources that implements the navigation connector; and

uniting the navigation nodes to provide, via the one or more navigation applications, a homogeneous view of navigation information from the plurality of application sources by uniting navigation hierarchies from each of the plurality of application sources into a united application hierarchy.

36. (New) An article comprising a machine-readable medium storing instructions operable to cause one or more machines to perform operations comprising:

operating one or more navigation applications in a presentation layer of a navigation model architecture, a navigation service in an integration layer of the navigation model architecture, and a plurality of application sources in a data layer of the navigation model architecture;

implementing a connector interface defined by the navigation service on each of the plurality of application sources to provide one navigation connector to the navigation service for each of the plurality of application sources, each navigation connector providing one or more navigation nodes that represent data objects in the one of the plurality of application sources that implements the navigation connector; and

uniting the navigation nodes to provide, via the one or more navigation applications, a homogeneous view of navigation information from the plurality of application sources by uniting navigation hierarchies from each of the plurality of application sources into a united application hierarchy by merging two or more of the navigation nodes from two or more of the application sources that are related to a same issue.